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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,820	06/28/2001	Joseph Chappell	50229-387	5779

7590 04/07/2004

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EXAMINER

CLOW, LORI A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,820

Applicant(s)

CHAPPELL ET AL.

Examiner

Lori A. Clow, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 107 and 163-242 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 107 and 163-242 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 107 and 163-242 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 1-106 and 108-162 were cancelled in the preliminary amendment file 28 June 2001.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statement filed 28 June 2001 has been considered. A signed copy of PTO form 1449 is included in this Office Action.

Specification

The amendment filed 18 June 2002 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: The amendment to the description of Figure 1 says that cylinders pictured as cylinders 1-8 and A are in the NH₂ domain and cylinders C-I are in the COOH domain. This information was not part of the disclosure as originally filed and cannot be introduced by way of amendment without support in the specification.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

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Claims 107 and 163-242 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Written Description

Claim 107 is directed to an isolated synthase having a region with 40% or greater identity to residues 579 to 847 SEQ ID NO:44, wherein one or more amino acid residues of said synthase that align with amino acids at positions 584, 587, 606, 609, 610, 688, 713, 714, 715, 716, 719, 753, 757, 831, 834, 835, 839, 841, and 842 of SEQ ID NO:44 are residues other than the arrangements set forth (in a table). The specification fails to describe the positions listed in the recited table as positions that are specific to SEQ ID NO:44. The table in the specification recites residues 1-19 and it is not stated that these correspond to residues 584, 587, 606, 609, 610, 688, 713, 714, 715, 716, 719, 753, 757, 831, 834, 835, 839, 841, and 842 of SEQ ID NO: 44.

New Matter

Claims 163, 164, and 180-242 contain new matter.

Specifically, in claim 163, there is no support in the instant specification for a synthase that has 50% or greater sequence identity to residues 579 to 847 of SEQ ID NO: 44. In the same fashion, there is no support in claim 164 for a synthase that has 60% or greater sequence identity to residues 579 to 847 of SEQ ID NO: 44. The specification does provide for 40% or greater

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sequence identity with regard to SEQ ID NO: 44 at page 7, however, there is no recited support for 50% and 60%.

Claims 180-242 recite the synthase of claim 107 wherein said amino acid at various recited positions is selected from the group consisting of various combinations of three amino acids. There is no support in the specification for these recited combinations of amino acids as they relate to SEQ ID NO:44. The specification provides support for these combinations **only** in reference to SEQ ID NO:2, as evidenced on page 3, lines 20-34.

Applicant is advised that new matter may not be introduced by way of preliminary amendment, unless certain conditions are met. In the instant case, those conditions have not been satisfied. See MPEP 608.04(b) and 714.03.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 168-179 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 168-179 recite synthases wherein said product is a certain hydrocarbon. It is unclear how the products that are made are limiting the product claimed. Clarification is requested.

No Claims Are Allowed.

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Inquiries

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The CM1 Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242, or (703) 308-4028.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori A. Clow, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0715. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10 am to 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (571) 272-0722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Legal Instrument Examiner, Tina Plunkett, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3524, or to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-0549.

MARJORIE MORAN
PATENT EXAMINER

Marjorie A. Moran
4/5/04

April 4, 2004

Lori A. Clow, Ph.D.

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Lori A. Clow